



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESEVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, September 6, 2012**

**Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park  
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

James Heitel, Chairman  
Fred Klein, Vice Chairman  
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner  
Marg Nelssen, Commissioner  
Robert Frost, Commissioner  
Con Englehorn, Commissioner  
Mike Milillo, Commissioner

**STAFF:**

Bill Murphy  
Kroy Ekblaw  
Scott Hamilton  
Claire Miller  
Robbin Schweitzer  
Liz Hildenbrand  
Joe Padilla

**GUESTS:**

Mike Nolan	David Mount (phonetic)
David Hay	Matt Dobler (phonetic)
Harvey Epstein	Donna Marino
John Miller	Mike Mayer
Bill Parker	Joseph Berardi
Linda Whitehead	Marilyn Andrews
Randy Hill	Randy Phillips
Susan Cassese	Darr Colburn
David Nichols	Alan Hunt
Steven Visner	John Demodica
Iris Epstein	Rich Gray
John Tanner	Terry Herndon
David Talbert	

Steve Boggs  
Darren Julian  
John Colizar  
(phonetic)  
Kevin Bodiner

Tim Holt  
Rod Lucas  
John Washington  
Dustin Darveau

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Heitel called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Mayer, Scottsdale citizen, expressed concerns about the impacts that the Desert Discovery Center could have on the Preserve habitat and requested that the Commission agendaize a standing discussion item about impact studies in the Preserve.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of July 9, 2012

**COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 9, 2012  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NELSEN, THE  
MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

**5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE**

Mr. Nolan reviewed the activities of the stewards and construction and maintenance projects. Stewards have begun trail patrols, which will be daily beginning in October. Mr. Nolan extended an invitation to Commissioners to attend the new steward orientation scheduled later in September.

**6. SPECIAL USE REQUEST**

Mr. Hamilton said that a proposal had been received from Aravaipa Running for a competitive trail running event to be held on December 8th. The event will be staged out of McDowell Mountain Regional Park with the runners entering a small portion of the Preserve over the ridge near the Gateway. The Sonoran Conservancy and staff are supportive of the proposal.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions and discussed the possibility of charging an impact fee for future special use activities.

**7. BOW HUNTING UPDATE**

Mr. Ekblaw presented graphics intended to address the use of firearms in relation to the current dove hunting season and Game and Fish regulations. The map outlined areas

within the Preserve and the surrounding areas, including a radius of a half mile of any structures where hunting is not permitted. The flyer also identifies basic rules, including references to Ordinance requirements.

Mr. Ekblaw presented a graphic directed toward the issue of bow hunting outlining areas owned by the City of Scottsdale and areas that are at this time managed by the Arizona State Land Department and which highlighted areas have distinct limitations. The City continues to work with Game and Fish to clarify areas and address concerns about enforceability, appropriate signage, and communication with users.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to make comments and discussed the Commission's mission, and the possibility of the Preserve Ordinance being amended in the future based on habitat studies.

**COMMISSIONER MILILLO MOVED TO AGENDIZE FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING BOW HUNTING IN THE PRESERVE FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING AND REQUESTED THAT STAFF PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT HABITAT STUDIES AS PART OF THE DISCUSSION. COMMISSIONER FROST SECONDED THE MOTION.**

The following individuals spoke regarding their concerns about bow hunting in the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve:

- John Colezar (phonetic)
- John Miller
- Randy Hill
- Matt Dobler (phonetic)
- Donna Marino
- David Mount (phonetic)
- Joseph Berardi
- Mike Mayer
- John Washington

**THE MOTION TO AGENDIZE FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING BOW HUNTING IN THE PRESERVE FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING AND REQUESTED THAT STAFF PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT HABITAT STUDIES AS PART OF THE DISCUSSION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

#### **8. NORTH AREA POLICIES DISCUSSION**

- Trailheads - Access Areas
- Trail Use

This item was discussed later in the meeting.

#### **9. LAND ACQUISITION AND FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the Draft 8/2011 Update and Sample Assumption - Option to Acquire Additional Land in 2012 - Draft and provided updated estimates based on an

increase in cash flow due to bonding rates and sales tax increases. He noted that Parcels A, B, and C are scheduled to go to auction on November 21st. Staff will review strategies and request authorization from Council in October or November.

## **10. FUTURE ACQUISITION PRIORITIES**

Mr. Ekblaw briefly reviewed the priority areas as outlined by the Commission in 2009 and noted that further discussion would be scheduled for October or November. Commissioners will be given the opportunity to make amendments to the priorities at that time.

## **8. NORTH AREA POLICIES DISCUSSION**

- Trailheads - Access Areas
- Trail Use

Mr. Hamilton recalled that the public comments from the April open houses were shared with the Commission during the July meeting together with the North Area Master Plan. He asked whether the Commission had an interest in further discussing the two policy oriented topics: Trailhead access areas and trail use.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that Council recently approved the Trails Master Plan and the construction contracts for two firms to do work, which will include gating, fencing, restoration, and trail improvements.

The Commission agreed that further discussion would be appropriate and a Commissioner requested further discussion regarding equestrian use in the washes within the Preserve boundaries.

## **11. STAFF REPORTS**

- Construction
  - Tom's Thumb

Mr. Hamilton noted that Tom's Thumb is nearing completion and the grand opening is scheduled for Thursday, October 18th in conjunction with the Mayor and Council breakfast.

- Brown's Ranch

Mr. Hamilton gave an update on the progress of construction at Brown's Ranch and associated trails. He discussed trail priorities and the process of working with the trail construction companies. Completion is expected in the latter part of spring 2013.

- North Area Trails

Mr. Hamilton reiterated that Council approved the trails master plan and job order contracts and noted that Brown's Ranch Trailhead and the Fraesfield and Granite Mountain Access points were priorities.

- Other

**12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Vice-Chair Klein expressed concern about amphibian collecting being permitted in the Preserve year round. Mr. Hamilton noted that amphibian collecting requires a permit.

**13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 4, 2012**

- Future Land Cost Benefit Study Process - November
- Land Acquisition and Financial Update - October
- North Area Policies Discussion - October
  - Trailheads - Access Areas
  - Trail Use
- Commercial Fees and Budget Opportunities - October
- Tour - November

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.